

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9195

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TAGS: SENV, AS

SUBJ: FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE 1973 ENDANGERED
SPECIES CONVENTION, BERN, SWITZERLAND, NOV 2-6, U.S. PROPOSAL

REF: (A) STATE 245987, (B) CANBERRA 7233 (NOTAL),

(C) CANBERRA 7080 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY TRANSMITTED CONTENTS OF REF (A) TO TWO EXPECTED
AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES TO BERN MEETING: NEVILLE FOLDI,
DIRECTOR, IMPORT/EXPORTS, AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS; AND DR. R.W. BODEN, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPLY FROM DR. BODEN
WHICH PRESUMABLY REPRESENTS GOA POSITION:

A. "WHILST WE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONVENTION SHOULD BE OF PRIMARY CONSIDERATION, THE
GROWTH OF APPENDICES IS CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN."

B. "THE GENERAL ATTITUDE TO BE TAKEN BY THE AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION APPENDICES
IS THAT A COUNTRY, HAVING DEMONSTRATED ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO
CONSERVE WILD POPULATIONS OF NATIVE FAUNA AND FLORA AND
REGULATE TRADE ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CON-
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VENTION IS BEST QUALIFIED TO ASSESS AND JUDGE THE STATUS

OF WILDLIFE IN THAT COUNTRY. AUSTRALIAN VOTING ON APPENDICES LISTING WILL REFLECT THIS ATTITUDE."

C. "AN ADDITIONAL CONCERN IS THE APPARENT TREND TO INCLUDE HIGHER TAXA AS A MEANS OF OVERCOMING IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS. THIS WILL NOT SOLVE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS, IF, BY DOING SO, LARGE NUMBERS OF COMMON AND WIDESPREAD SPECIES ARE IMPLICATED. THE OBVIOUS ALTERNATIVE TO COUNTRIES FACED WITH THIS SITUATION IS TO DEPOSIT RESERVATIONS FOR THE SPECIES IN QUESTION. IT IS HOPED THE MEETING WILL EXAMINE THIS ASPECT AS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE AS DISTINCT FROM A SPECIES BY SPECIES APPROACH. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE UNITED STATES' VIEW ON THIS ASPECT."

D. "IN OUR VIEW ANY APPROACH TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE FOR SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS TO BE DEALT WITH AS WELL."

3. COMMENT: AS DISCUSSED IN PARAS 5 AND 6 OF REF (B), AUSTRALIA APPEARS DETERMINED TO HAVE BERN MEETING APPROVE THE INCLUSION IN APPENDIX 2 OF THE THREE SPECIES OF KANGAROOS THE RED (MEGALEIA RUFA), EASTERN GRAY (MACROPUS GIGANTEUS), AND WESTERN GRAY (MACROPUS FULIGINOSUS)--THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH INTO THE UNITED STATES IS CURRENTLY BANNED. AS MENTIONED IN PARA 6 OF REF (B), GOA NOW INTERPRETING CONVENTION TO READ THAT WHEN THREE SPECIES FORMALLY INCLUDED IN APPENDIX 2 AND WHEN CONVENTION ENTERED INTO FORCE IN AUSTRALIA (OCTOBER 27), THEN U.S. REMOVAL OF IMPORT BAN SHOULD BE AUTOMATIC AND NOT RPT NOT DEPENDENT ON COMPLICATED CERTIFICATION AND "PROPOSED RULE-MAKING" PROCEDURES. GOA DELEGATES MAY THUS BE EXPECTED TO HOLD OUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF INCLUSION OF NEW SPECIES IN APPENDICES. HARGROVE

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